



MACHINE TOOL SYSTEM

Abstract of the Disclosure

5 A machine tool apparatus is provided employing a plurality of tool heads which may be sequentially or simultaneously automatically controlled to perform preprogrammed operations on either the same or different workpieces. In one form, a plurality of tool heads are supported on the same frame, guideway or track and may be separate prepositioned or driven under remote or automatic control to perform preprogrammed operations either in sequence or simultaneously on the same work-
10 piece or simultaneously on separate workpieces spaced apart on a common conveyor such as a flight conveyor while the conveyor is either in motion or stationary.

In another form, the conveyor is automatically stopped with units of work thereon, each disposed so as to be predeterminedly located with respect to a respective machine tool which has been prepositioned adjacent the work-holding conveyor. In yet another form, at least certain of the machine tools are movable parallel to the work-holding conveyor so that they may
20 be predeterminedly moved prior to and/or during operations on work.

In yet another form, means are provided for transferring units of work from the work-holding conveyor to temporary platforms adjacent certain of the respective machine tools so that
25 each tool may perform automatic operations on work while the work-holding conveyor remains operating.

*This specification
has been referred
5/4/96*